

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 5 1978 SEP 4 1979
DATE ENTEREDSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Barre Downtown Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATIONVT 302
Generally along Depot Square, North Main Street, Washington Street,
South Main Street, and area along east side of Montpelier and Barre
Railroad right of way.

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

Barre

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Vermont

50

Washington

023

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☒ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☒ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☒ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☒ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☒ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☒ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple--See Continuation Sheet 4-1

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of City Clerk and Treasurer, City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

12 North Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Barre

STATE

Vermont 05641

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Vermont Historic Sites and Structures Survey

DATE

1979

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Montpelier,

STATE

Vermont

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☒ FAIR
☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

About six miles southeast of the capital Montpelier, the city of Barre lies in a hill-rimmed valley along the Stevens Branch of the Winooski River. The granite quarries that gave form to Barre as an industrial city are about three miles further southeast of the city. Millstone Hill, a double elevation, which rises to a height of about 1700 feet, has been historically the major locus of quarrying operations. About three and one-half miles northeast of Millstone Hill is another granite mass called Cobble Hill with an elevation of over 1700 feet.

The principal street in the district is Main Street (North and South) which basically developed along the route of the Stevens Branch. Main Street is generally oriented on a northwest-southeast line up to City Park. This axis is continued from City Park by Washington Street and is part of U.S. 302. At the head of City Park North Main Street begins to arc in a southerly direction and becomes South Main Street and State Route 14.

The Barre Downtown Historic District is comprised of two contiguous sections: 1) the linear commercial district along the North Main Street axis, and 2) the City Park area. The latter occurs at an important crossroads which by the second quarter of the nineteenth century was a developing focus of community life for the various settlements in the Barre area. Today it is the showplace of the city: a very architecturally cohesive grouping of primarily nineteenth- and early twentieth-century buildings--mainly civic and religious in nature--which are organized around a triangular park. The linear section is composed of the remaining significant concentration of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century commercial buildings which sprang up along Main Street as the large-scale industrial production of granite became a reality with the advent of rail service in 1875 and a quarry railroad in 1888. This section also includes Depot Square, a short spur off of North Main Street where two passenger depots still remain though used for other purposes--#38 built in 1908 and #39 dating from about 1890. The Montpelier and Barre Railroad right of way runs against the western edge of the district. Rail operations historically skirted along the back of the commercial axis near the Stevens Branch and serviced the many granite manufacturies and dealers sheds that sprang up in the Burnham's Meadow/Granite Street area (not far from the developing commercial center to the east). Originally the meandering course of the Stevens Branch brought the river up to the rear of commercial properties along a stretch of the west side of Main Street. However, it was rechanneled about 1910, filled in, and a rear drive was built. Today it now also serves as an extensive parking lot.

These two areas, that is, City Park and the linear business district, draw the strength and continuity of their architectural character from a common boom building period which spanned from the 1880s to about 1910. A key architectural and design characteristic specific to Barre in this period is the pervasive use of granite for building details. Granite wherever used is handled with virtuosity, reflecting the skills of the craftsmen that helped build the granite industry: from superbly executed public statuary such as the Robert Burns Monument (#9A) and the Soldiers and Sailors Monument (#1B), to finely dressed granite window trim and wall reliefs, to highly polished, flawlessly turned columns, to signs in a variety of forms. Thus

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where terra cotta, cast iron, concrete, or other materials were in common usage to articulate building and design details, in Barre the important local resource of granite was often the preferred choice.

Buildings in the district are of several basic types: houses, churches, institutional and civic buildings, commercial blocks, railroad stations. Buildings are predominantly in good condition. Many sustain their original use or, in the case of some, a compatible use. Three former dwellings in the City Park area have been converted to office use (#5, #7, and #11), and the former Hotel Barre (#3) has been adapted into housing for the elderly. Commercial blocks have generally retained since the late nineteenth-century growth period a multi-purpose character with retail, office, and residential spaces often occurring in one building. (Several also had meeting halls on upper floors.) Some changes in use have taken place as with the passenger depots--#39 has housed a cleaners for many years and #38 serves as the General Offices of the Montpelier and Barre Railroad. The Wheelock Law Office (#46) is presently used as a senior citizens center. The former town hall (#50) was originally built for mixed uses with town functions on the second floor and commercial on the first; the Salvation Army has owned and occupied the second floor for a number of years while the first floor remains in commercial operation.

Despite the common boom building period, the City Park area and the commercial section have very distinct and different qualities. The commercial buildings north of City Hall to the Granite Block (#20 - #22) share the frontality and linear aspect of the North Main Street axis and will be considered part of it in the description. The City Park area is architecturally and spatially very three-dimensional. Buildings in the park area generally have a compatible, easy rhythm of spacing, similar and often common frontage lines, are usually set back from the roadway on a short span of lawn, and create a variety of vistas as one travels through the several intersections around the triangular park. The Aldrich Public Library (#2) and the Spaulding Graded School (#9) have dramatic deep setbacks, and are very important visual points in the district. The Universalist Church is another dominant structure by siting, and its massive side clock tower gives special emphasis to the intersection in front of City Hall. In addition, a major visual focus occurs at the head of City Park where the compelling granite figure of "Youth Triumphant"--part of the crescent-shaped Soldiers and Sailors monument (#1B)--commands the North Main Street axis as it bifurcates to the south and south-east.

In terms of architectural styles the City Park area which is heavily comprised of religious and civic buildings shows a more conscious and systematic expression of style than does the linear commercial section. Most examples come from the late picturesque phase of the Victorian period: some notable examples include the Episcopal

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church (#12) - Gothic Revival; Hedding Methodist Church (#6) - Queen Anne; and Spaulding Graded School (#9) - Richardsonian Romanesque. The Neo-Classical Revival style is largely reserved for public architecture and is successfully used to achieve a monumental effect for buildings of relatively small scale. The Post Office (#18) and the Aldrich Public Library (#2) are important examples. Most buildings are of brick with granite used for trim and foundations. Two buildings make extensive use of granite masonry: the Episcopal Church with rock-faced blocks and the Post Office with the dressed block more appropriate to the Neo-Classical Revival style.

Some important late nineteenth-century remodelings occurred in the City Park area transforming the once Greek Revival Congregational and Universalist churches (#14 and #16) into then current fashion with Richardsonian Romanesque features substantially expanding the scale of the former and late Gothic Revival features creating the vertical emphasis of the latter. In general, the exterior appearance of most buildings in this section have remained intact with the exception of the extensive siding and remodeling of two frame buildings (#5 and #7).

By way of contrast to the park area the commercial district is a linear progression of adjoining or very narrowly spaced commercial blocks the more substantial of which are three and four stories. These are reflective of the period when the downtown developed as an urban commercial center paralleling the growth of granite quarrying and manufacturing into a large-scale industry. Later one-story infill primarily replacing wood-frame blocks and a few brick buildings has created some cliff-like changes in height.

The architecture of this section has the frontality characteristic of most commercial districts and employs the typical late nineteenth-century three-part design divisions of: a prominent cornice; elongated, flat mid-section with regular openings; and street-level shopfronts. The horizontal proportions however differ from buildings in metropolitan centers where multi-windowed central bays are favored to give a horizontal emphasis. In Barre, narrow, single window-width central bays are almost ubiquitous.

Architecturally, the commercial district shows a continuity of appearance which primarily derives from a late and eclectic use of Victorian-era stylistic sources. The French Second Empire Wheelock Law Office (#46, already listed in the National Register) is one of the few survivors from the pre-boom period which began in the 1880s. Averill's Block (#21) at City Park is a good example of Panel Brick/late Italianate. The Granite Block (#22) is Neo-Grec with Victorian Gothic detailing. Panel Brick--the ornate patterned brickwork characteristic of innovative centers such as Boston and New York in the 1870s--was popular in Barre through 1900 (#40). The Richardsonian Romanesque is the basis for the Blanchard Block of 1904 (#20).

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It is not uncommon to find elements of three and even four of these styles on a single building such as with the Worthen Block (#47). The Neo-Classical Revival style was less eclectically used and shows a more systematic use of typical stylistic motifs as with #48. One of the two real statements of the Queen Anne style in the entire district occurs with a former passenger depot (#39)--in essentially a domestically scaled and rendered version of the style. Modest examples of Commercial Moderne are found with Fishman's and Newberry's (#30 and #45).

The commercial district as with the City Park area shows a decided preference for masonry construction which gives it a solid, monumental appearance. Many buildings are brick with granite trim; the two rock-faced granite buildings (#22 and #31) have special visual prominence, especially the latter which is of more massive proportions than other blocks along North Main Street. One of the few wood buildings surviving from the pre-boom days is the old town hall (#50), in a remodeled form.

Remodelings predictably are far more extensive in the commercial part of the district than in the City Park area and range from artificial siding jobs to irreversible storefront alterations. Old photographs show that granite detailing, including expensive ornament such as polished columns, was often used at the shopfront level although its use certainly did not supplant that of cast-iron posts and columns for framing large window areas of the late nineteenth-century storefront. With the exception of a few vestiges as on #31, granite detailing survives in the commercial area only on the upper floors of buildings.

Shopfront alteration has caused another visual change: basically a rearrangement of the traditional nineteenth-century building front line. Some replacement structures such as Fishman's were designed with projecting storefronts; however, it became a common way of modernizing the storefront area of older commercial structures, sometimes with a few visually unrelated fronts grafted onto the same building. The west side of North Main Street is very much given to this trend and has lost much important detailing plus the crispness of its earlier appearance because of it.

Other remodelings of sorts relate to public improvements. A Bicentennial tree-planting program has occurred along the North Main Street axis. A visually very obtrusive change occurred in the early 1970s under a traffic program (TOPICS) which involved the creation of an elaborate traffic island system along City Park as well as the addition of highway-scale sign boards over three major intersections.

Within the boundaries of the district most of the substantial commercial blocks remain; however, some major buildings have been lost which were an important part of Barre's burgeoning center during the boom years. The most notable include the three-story Panel Brick Miles and Gordon blocks. The latter (also serving as the I.O.O.F. building) was built in 1891 and at the shopfront level had massive granite

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Corinthian columns and piers instead of cast iron, as used on the adjacent Miles Block. Numbers 29 and 30 are now on the site of these two buildings. At the bend of North Main Street recent one-story stores (#23-25) now occupy the sites of a series of Italianate (apparently frame) buildings which ranged from two to four stories. French's Block had the most effusive detailing with pedimented window heads over the second-story windows and a tassel-like detailing descending from the bracketed cornice.

The boundaries of the Barre Downtown Historic District reflect the architecturally cohesive development of Barre center during the surging years of the granite industry. Most of the domestically-scaled buildings in the center before 1880 soon gave way to an urban form of building, and, an urban scale and density. The advent of rail service was the crucial and long-awaited impetus necessary to stimulate exploitation of a valuable local resource. The passenger depots are a part of this transformation of Barre. Northwest of Depot Square and the district boundary, North Main Street has essentially lost its earlier architectural continuity and only isolated commercial blocks remain amidst an increasingly encroaching strip. To the other sides of the district boundaries the nature of the built environment changes into residential or industrial areas while south of the Fire Station the urban density rapidly drops off into a rural character.

All buildings and sites within the district are as follows:

1. City Park (bounded by North Main Street, Church Street and Washington Street)

Located at the intersection of six major streets, City Park forms the focal point of Barre's city center. The triangular green space with spruces and elms provides a visual transition from the hillside dominated by the Spaulding Graded School and the lower lying commercial district. It is ringed by many of the community's most important religious and civic buildings.

In the early nineteenth century the Common of the Lower Village (as what eventually became Barre City was once called) became a natural hub with its crossroads location for public activities of the developing agricultural town. Paths, and later roads went through the Lower Village to other settlements: Thwingville (North Barre), the Upper Village (South Barre), Gospel Village (to the northeast), and Jockey Hollow (to the south). The Methodists erected a meeting house on the common in 1800/1801 which was also used for some years for town meetings.

City Park has two structures:

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1A. The Barre Bandstand:

An important fixture of City Park since about the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the wooden gazebo was part of Barre's dynamic ethnic cultural life. Bands that undoubtedly used it were the: Scot Bagpipe Band, the Italian-American Trans-Atlantic Club, and the Barre City Band. It has been relocated and altered a number of times and is presently at the center of the park. The structure is octagonal in shape and is roofed by a two-part domed cap. Arched bracing between chamfered posts and acorn-and-star patterned slats at the base form part of the decorative trim.

1B. Soldiers and Sailors Memorial:

A granite war memorial (1924), honoring the young men of Barre who fought in World War I, stands at the broad northern end of the park. Its central motif is a kneeling figure, "Youth Triumphant," executed in a Social Realist style. The sculpture rests on a podium framed by a semi-circular granite exedra and commands the vista of the North Main Street axis. A New York sculptor C. Paul Jennewein won a nationwide competition held for the memorial's design. Architect John Mead Howells designed the architectural setting, and local granite craftsman Gino Tosi (aided by E. Yuri and A. Dementi) carved the memorial.

2. Aldrich Public Library (6 Washington Street)

A well-preserved example of the Neo-Classical style, the Aldrich Public Library (1907) is notable for its monumental character and Barre granite detailing. The trustees of the library had firmly believed that some portion of the building should be of granite. \$5,000 was voted by the Town of Barre to the building fund with the condition that granite be used.

The library occupies a prominent corner site enhanced by landscaping, walkways, and a formal entrance flanked by cast-iron lamps of Beaux Arts design. The building's four elevations are symmetrically arranged, with a pedimented entrance pavilion forming the central feature of the three-bay facade. Buff-colored Roman brick walls, rising two stories from a podium-like base, have light Barre granite accents in the trim. Rusticated brick pilasters frame the corners as well as the central bay which features monumental Ionic columns of polished granite. The Doric entrance surround is capped by a large semi-circular arch containing granite sculpture in the tympanum. On the second level, the window is recessed and fronted by a balcony. A paneled parapet over the central bay further emphasizes the entrance pavilion and continues along the main facade.

Leonard Frost Aldrich, a very prominent Barre citizen, provided the motivational

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and financial impetus for the building of the library. He was a State Representative from 1859 to 1860, served as a justice of the peace, held a variety of town offices, and served on several institutional boards. He devoted much energy to furthering educational opportunities in Barre through the formation of the Barre Academy and Goddard Seminary.

3. Former Hotel Barre (14 Washington Street)

The Washington Apartments building was constructed in 1915 as the Hotel Barre. The main mass of the building is formed by a narrow, oblong five-story block with a flat roof. A two-level, Colonial Revival style Corinthian portico, decorated with geometric insets at the balustrade level, provides the focal point for the design. The building's brickwork is laid in Flemish bond and features a reticulated pattern in the tympanum of the arches above the first-story windows. Local granite appears as trim for the three front bays at the portico and in blocks at the basement level. A deep cornice forms a prominent horizontal division between the fourth story and top floor, which was apparently a later addition.

The building, which is on the site of the former City Hotel, was converted with little exterior alteration to elderly housing in 1970 according to plans by architect Benjamin Stein.

4. First Baptist Church (24 Washington Street)

The First Baptist Church (completed 1894) is a representative expression of the picturesque plan type for churches in Barre. It contains elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque style, although Romanesque detailing is applied to a design that is both conservative and basically Gothic Revival in character. Of particular note is the fact that the building was originally constructed of wood and after the turn of the century was sheathed in pressed brick with granite trim.

The central element of the building's facade is a peaked Gothic pavilion with a large, arched nave window. The flanking entrance tower, which rises in four stages to a steep pyramidal roof, follows the characteristic treatment for Gothic Revival style church towers of wood-frame construction: large pier buttresses, ascending in receding planes, mark each level of the tower and are capped with pinnacles at the open belfry. Opposite the entrance tower is a lower, round projecting tower with a steep conical roof that is much more closely derivative of Richardsonian Romanesque motifs. The building's sides break from the flat wall planes in shallow projecting transepts.

5. Former house (30-32 Washington Street)

Pre-1900, Queen Anne/Colonial Revival style house. Wood-frame; 2 1/2 stories; steep

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gable roof; shallow two-bay main block; round-arched gable window. Artificial siding; extensively altered, especially in the first story; trim removed. Converted to offices. Non-contributing in present form.

6. Hedding Methodist Church (40 Washington Street)

The foremost example of picturesque church design in Barre is the Hedding Methodist Church (1894/5). The diverse character of the building's finishing materials, the use of polychromy, and the juxtaposition of distinct and varying design forms all represent the best aspects of the Queen Anne style design tradition. The most unusual, and distinctive, feature of this well-preserved church is the arched bridge that links the nave to the offset corner tower.

The design for the church was by L. B. Valk of Brooklyn and consists of a steep-gabled nave, flanking lower side aisles, and an offset front entrance tower on the Church Street side of the building. Along the side elevations are cross gables over shallow transepts, with lower, attached, hip-roofed appendages.

Red and grey slate, red pressed brick, granite, and wooden shingles and detailing appear throughout the building. Wooden trim is concentrated at the tower, which has corner buttressing rising to pepper pot pinnacles at the steep pyramidal roof and round-arched multi-pane windows. The door canopy of the tower has stickwork facing and is supported on slender granite columns--an unusual design feature. Victorian-era polychromy is particularly apparent at the nave wall: in the slate-hung projecting gable, the wood paneling of the gable peak, and the surfaces that contain arched nave windows with wooden tracery and amber and opalescent glass.

The Methodists had an active history of church construction and relocation beginning with a frame building on the common in 1801/2. By 1838 a new church had been built near the site of the present one with front facing Washington St. It no longer exists.

6A. Brick, one-story rear addition, 1957. Non-contributing.

7. Apartment Building (46 Washington Street, 113-117 Church Street)

Built between 1894 and 1900 as four-dwelling, Mansard style apartment block. Wood frame; Queen Anne style corner tower; 2 1/2 stories; long rear ell facing Church Street with two canted bays containing side entries and two-story porches. Extensively altered facade; artificial siding. Used for offices and apartments. Non-contributing in present form.

7A. Brick rear addition. Non-contributing.

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8. Masonic Temple (2 Academy Street)

The core of this large hillside complex is a brick Greek Revival style residence. The building's broad proportions, heavy cornice at the gable roof, five by two bay configuration, and wide doorway are characteristic of this stylistic period in Vermont. Granite appears in window sills and lintels, the entrance enframingent, and in massive blocks for the foundation.

The house, located at the front of the complex, is visible from City Park. A more monumental effect has been obtained by the addition of a prominent Doric portico and pediment at the front entrance during the early 20th century. In 1929 a large brick masonic hall and offices were attached to the rear, with a Neo-Federal style entrance facing Academy Street.

The former house (in some form) was originally that of Joseph Ripley who served as town clerk from 1818 to 1840. An 1894 reference notes "On the east of the Park we have the home of long-time Town Clerk Mr. Ripley, raised one story and making the substantial residence of H. A. Phelps."¹ The Phelps brothers did not come to Barre until 1884, shortly after opening an extensive hardware store--specializing in quarrying and stone shed supplies. Alteration to the building is visible; it must have occurred long before, circa 1845, however.

9. Spaulding Graded School (60 Washington Street)

The Spaulding Graded School for "high school and intermediate scholars" was built in 1891/1892 on the site of the old Barre Academy and designed by St. Johnsbury architect Lambert Packard. Dr. Jacob S. Spaulding had been principal and business manager of the academy for 28 years since its inception in 1852.

The school was the showpiece of the city's public school system dating from an era when a community's public schools were a matter of intense civic pride; the school's layout, furnishings and equipment represented the most modern examples of their type at the time the building was constructed. Its design is particularly well-suited for a prominent hillside site, spreading across a large, landscaped lot in a broad horizontal mass that forms a visual terminus for the southeastern vista from City Park.

Spaulding School incorporates elements of both the Richardsonian Romanesque and Jacobean styles. Balanced--though not symmetrical--in bay arrangement and massing, the building has a three-part facade consisting of a corbeled, crow-step pavilion, a projecting central entrance bay flanked by round towers, and grouped windows set

¹Dr. H. J. Henry Jackson, Historical Souvenir, (Barre, Vermont: Nickerson & Cox, 1894), p. 74.

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in a vertical wall surface near the Washington Street side of the building. The ribbed ogee cap and open arcade of the taller tower is a particularly distinctive feature. Walls are of brick with granite for sills and foundations.

Detailing in this building is concentrated at the facade, in patterned brickwork, a granite-edged Syrian arch at the entry, and in the towers. The remaining elevations, which are not visible from City Park, have a much simpler surface treatment, planar wall areas, and few projections. A massive hip roof, abruptly rising to a higher peak near the side elevations, spreads across the main block in unbroken slopes.

In 1914 a hip-roofed addition, similar in dimensions and basic detailing, was connected to the southwest corner of the original structure. Positioned at an offset angle, the later addition does not detract from the visual impact of the main building.

9A. Robert Burns Monument

The Scots were not long in Barre before organizing a Burns Club and soon decided to erect a public monument to him. Dedication ceremonies were held in 1899. J. Massey Rhind of Edinburgh, Scotland designed the statue which was carved by a very skilled Barre sculptor, Sam Novelli. The panels at the base of the statue which depict scenes from Burns' poetry were conceived of by James B. King and expertly carved by another important local craftsman, Elia Corti. The statue faces City Park and rises from the hillside in front of the Spaulding school.

10. Lake House (55-57 Washington Street)

Pre-1894, Italianate style T-plan residence. Two stories; wood-frame construction; low hip roof; side (Washington Street) entries; bracketed eaves; two-story porch at ell. Queen Anne style bay along the front elevation (faces Spaulding Street).

11. Former House (51 Washington Street)

Between 1889 and 1894. Italianate style; wood-frame; three-bay facade; two stories; low hip roof; prominent cornice. Original trim and siding altered. Serves as offices for Washington County Mental Health Center.

12. Church of the Good Shepherd (Episcopal) (39 Washington Street)

The Church of the Good Shepherd (1895), reminiscent of a small English abbey, is the only church building in Barre's center constructed entirely of local granite.

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Rectilinear in plan and simple in both form and detailing, the building's design consists of a central gabled nave with low shed-roofed side aisles. The trim, executed in wood and in carved granite, is derived mainly from Early English Gothic sources. Detailing includes: lancet and pointed openings, plate tracery, exposed rafters at overhanging eaves, and a small domed lantern at the center of the roof ridge.

13. Church Street School (51 Church Street)

A mixture of Queen Anne and Italianate style detailing is the design basis. The brick building was constructed in two phases as the Church Street School. Originally a one-story, two-room school in 1878, the building was expanded by a full story, with major alterations to the front tower, in 1884.

In its present form, the design features a central, hip-roofed tower that projects from a symmetrically arranged, five-bay facade. The building has Gothic wooden trim as well as brick detailing for the eaves, belt course, and segmental Italianate style hood molds at the windows. The front tower was altered substantially in recent years with a large ornamented granite entrance.

In its original conception, the Church Street School had a single story, hip-roof, and a shallow central pavilion. It continued in operation as a school until ca. 1920 when it was converted for offices. It now houses the Barre Granite Association, a trade organization of granite quarriers and manufacturers founded in 1889.

14. Barre Congregational Church (35 Church Street)

Richardsonian Romanesque elements--the wide round arch and multi-transom window--have been applied to what was originally an 1840 brick Greek Revival church. The bold scale of the granite trim at the building's openings sets up a strong contrast with the brick walls and provides the major visual feature of the remodeled design (1887).

The facade of the Congregational Church consists of a central gable wall, applied as a false front to the earlier structure, and flanking entrance towers. The bell tower is the more prominent of the two front projections, and features an arched entry, elongated narrow windows, an arched open belfry, and low hip roof. At the opposite corner, a low tower with graduated pier buttresses and a prominent banded window adds balance to the design. The three surface planes of the building's front elevation are tied together by a continuous granite-faced string course. An upper level rose window, outlined with large granite blocks, and a deep transom window have been centered in the front gable wall. The side elevations, pierced by round-arched windows, are treated with minimal surface decoration. The cost of the remodeling in 1887 was about \$12,000.

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15. Parish House (19 Church Street)

Between 1894 and 1900; Italianate style building. Wood-frame construction; two stories; low hip roof; two-bay facade; offset entry; bracketed eaves with corner frames; porch with chamfered posts; side wing. Clapboarded.

16. Universalist Church (19 Church Street)

In its present form, the Universalist Church is essentially Gothic Revival in character; however, some detailing from the original 1852 Greek Revival design remains on the side elevations. Its most distinctive features under the remodeling which occurred before 1884 are the corner towers; grouped pier buttresses, recessed window areas, and an unusual curvilinear broach at the upper levels form their heavily modeled decorative treatment.

Rectilinear in shape, the building has a gabled face which masks the lower roofline of the body of the church; the gable wall is pierced by three Gothic-arched windows with early colored glass. The offset front towers, capped with steep hip roofs, rise in four stages, and the more prominent north tower has a clock face on its upper level.

The Greek Revival styling of the original building remains on the side elevations where the bay divisions are marked by paneled pilasters. Originally the church had a pedimented front gable and a central tower above the gable peak. The exterior of the church has been clad in aluminum siding although most of its decorative trim has been left intact.

17. Barre Fire Station (8 South Main Street)

Built in 1904 the Barre firehouse was patterned after the Wollaston Street station in Quincy, Massachusetts. The design was selected by a committee which visited a number of New England cities to investigate buildings and prices. Plans were loaned by the city of Quincy.

The station, which is characterized by a mix of stylistic sources and a variety of materials, retains its original wooden-arched folding doors as well as its distinctive weathervane of a horse-drawn hook and ladder wagon. The building has a rectilinear, barn-like shape, and rising near the rear wall is an attached drying tower with an open belfry, arcading, and a hip roof. The elaborate decorative trim of the building befits an important civic structure. Although a large part of the building is faced with red brick, the facade and a section of the east elevation are sheathed in yellow pressed brick. Heavy rock-faced granite quoins define the building's corners and contrast in both scale and texture with the unusual

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metal-capped roofline parapet and ornate decorative gable. Terra cotta and molded brick surround both the horizontal oval windows and garage bays on the facade. A prominent belt course, dividing the garage area from the office level above, contains a name plaque.

18. United States Post Office (3 South Main Street)

Of Barre granite, the post office building was constructed from 1911 to 1912 at a cost of \$115,000. The Neo-Classical style building which uses bold Greek classical forms achieves a monumental scale among Barre's buildings. Featuring planar wall surfaces with smooth-faced granite ashlar, a taut, self-contained shape, and strict symmetry on the main elevations, the postal building was constructed under James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect for the United States Secretary of the Treasury.

The principal elevations (on the South Main and Prospect street sides) each have a three-bay projecting central pavilion, flanked by single bays on either side. The pavilion is further emphasized at the main entrance (i.e., on South Main Street) by the use of inset Ionic columns in antis. On both major elevations, the entrances receive similar treatment: e.g., patterned metal screens, a fret band panel, and a deep cornice above. The building which is generally well-preserved was expanded on its south and west sides in 1967; a large parking lot on the south accommodates the mail trucks.

✓ 19. Barre City Hall and Opera House (12 North Main Street)

Entered on the National Register of Historic Places, June 18, 1973. Fiscal year 1978 grant of \$25,000 made to the Vermont Center for Performing Arts, Inc. for code improvements to the Opera House portion.

20. A. C. Blanchard Block (14-22 North Main Street)

The Blanchard building (1904-1905) was designed by architect Lambert Packard and is derivative of the Richardsonian Romanesque models for commercial and warehouse architecture developed in the 1880s. One of a row of commercial blocks that front on City Park, the large four-story scale corresponds well with that of the adjacent City Hall.

The main facade of the building, brick with some granite detailing, is articulated into three sections by a massive three-level wall arcade. Set immediately beneath each arch is a grouping of three curved windows while at the second- and third-story levels are groupings of three rectangular window openings. The Blanchard

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Block follows the traditional format for nineteenth- and early twentieth-century commercial buildings with its prominent cornice, planar facade with grouped openings at regular intervals, and ground-level shopfronts. Although the upper levels have remained intact, the storefront area has been extensively remodeled with large display windows and a deep signboard. The building retains its multi-use character.

21. Averill's Block (26-28-34 North Main Street)

This three-story Italianate/Panel Brick style building was erected from 1885 to 1886 and is one of the earlier large commercial blocks in Barre. Particularly notable is the building's patterned brickwork with glazed yellow brick accents--an unusual feature which introduces Victorian-era polychromy. Brick corbelling, sawtooth courses, and panels provide emphasis to the cornice area. Projecting brickwork appears over the segmental-arch windows as well as the central arched openings of the upper story. The facade bays are marked by elongated brackets at the roof line. Originally the building had a decorative central gable and a series of storefronts trimmed with Neo-Grec detailing. Through a recent remodeling the ground level has been altered to brick bays with bowed windows.

Luther Martin Averill had dealt in groceries since 1870 in the "Old Brown Ark" which was on the site where the Granite Block (#22) now stands. He built the new block to house his burgeoning business which had expanded to other stock as well.

22. Granite Block (36-40 North Main Street)

The three-story Neo-Grec style Granite Block was built in 1888 to provide offices for the prospering Granite Savings Bank and Trust Company which still is located there. One of the main design features of the building is the use of rock-faced Barre granite blocks for a textured wall surface, and contrasting smooth-finished granite for most of the trim. Gothicized trim appearing in the central bay and over the windows has also been entirely fashioned in granite.

Capped by a low cornice and central decorative gable, the design for the Granite Block features a deep frieze, narrow center projecting pavilion, and paired end windows under peaked caps. The basically flat wall surface is relieved by such features as the projecting pier buttresses and columns in the central bay, rectangular blocks positioned as triglyphs along the frieze, peaked window caps, and rock-faced granite block. The ground level has been recently remodeled with a smooth-faced granite veneer. Originally granite piers divided the space into a narrow center bay and two end bays with each end bay further articulated by granite columns.

23. Commercial Building (46-54 North Main Street)

Early 1970s; one-story brick front; projecting storefronts; continuous wooden sign

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board. Non-contributing.

24. Commercial Building (58-70 North Main Street)

Early 1970s; one-story; brick front; piers between shops; continuous wooden sign-board. Non-contributing.

25. Commercial Building (84-86-88 North Main Street)

Ca. 1975; one-story; white glazed brick front; angled corner with round opening. Non-contributing.

26. Storefront (92 North Main Street)

1950s; one-story; faced with enameled metal; single shopfront. Non-contributing.

27. Commercial Building (100 North Main Street)

Between 1911 and 1916; three-story; brick; recent metal screen and storefront on facade. Non-contributing in present form.

28. L. J. Bolster Block (114-118 North Main Street)

The four-story Bolster Block (1891) is representative of large, late nineteenth-century commercial structures. Designed with a prominent metal cornice and flat front with regularly spaced windows, the building's uniform brick wall surface is relieved by the emphasis on its central bay, the use of shallow wall piers, window trim that varies with each floor, and horizontal banding. The trim incorporates elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque, Italianate, and Neo-Grec styles.

Originally the cornice was surmounted by a decorative central gable. Although the building's original shop level cornice remains, the display areas beneath have become over the years projecting storefronts, one of which is faced with Carrara glass.

29. Commercial Building (122-126 North Main Street)

Ca. 1960; two-story; metal-faced; ribbon windows; projecting shopfronts. Non-contributing.

30. M. H. Fishman Co. Building (136-140 North Main Street)

Ca. 1940, Commercial Moderne style "five and dime" block. Two stories; flat roof; upper level has two large bands of color, dark orange brick on the bottom and deep yellow brick above; dark orange brick insets over second-level bays; Chicago windows

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in upper story; apparently original ground level display areas; signboard altered.

31. D. M. Miles Building (158-168 North Main Street)

The extensive use of local granite is the most significant feature of the well-preserved Miles Block (1898). In this broad, four-story structure stone appears as a uniform rock-faced surface with little contrasting trim. Pilasters that mark the building into five large bays are finished in the same surface as the main wall face and thus little alter the planar surface treatment. Groupings of three one-over-one rectangular window openings occur in each bay with the exception of the narrower, two-window center bay. Window openings have granite lintels with the same rock-faced finish and a narrow granite sill course.

Originally the building's decoration occurred at the cornice and the ground levels. The mutulary cornice with ornamented frieze below is still intact. However, of the six highly polished granite columns that once highlighted the large plate glass shopfront areas only one remains and the plate glass has been filled in to create visually separate store areas.

David M. Miles was an entrepreneur who was involved in a number of lines of business including quarrying and real estate development. He was one of the builders of the three-story, 1880s Miles' Block (where #29 now stands) and also served as director of Barre's electric railway.

31A. Commercial Building (168 North Main Street)

Between 1894 and 1900; one-story store; flat roof; brick. Shop cornice of adjacent Miles Block continues at roofline of this building. Storefront altered. Non-contributing.

32. Quinlen Block (170-174 North Main Street)

Under construction in 1894 this Neo-Classical style business block is notable for its stamped metal surface. A variety of classical details--frieze bands, panels with rinceau patterns, egg and dart moldings, pilaster strips, a shop-level cornice--cover the surface of the building's facade in an intricate, shallow decorative trim. Stamped metal in a simpler, repetitive pattern was also used to cover the building's side elevations.

Three stories in height, the block has three central window bays with two outer bays on each side; the divisions are marked by pilaster strips on the upper floor and Ionic pilasters at the second level. One-over-one windows are set in rectangular

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openings and on the second level they are surmounted by a transom.

The building has undergone a number of changes. Although it presently has a prominent mutulary cornice, it originally had arcading above the third-story windows and an elaborate stepped central parapet above the cornice line. The original storefront cornice remains although the display area has become disparate storefronts.

33. Eastman Brothers Block (180-186 North Main Street)

Built in 1895 the Eastman Block has the typical late nineteenth-century commercial building form of a flat facade, minimal decorative detailing, and an elongated cornice area. The three-story, five-bay brick block has rectangular window openings with one-over-one windows and granite lintels and sills. Patterned brickwork and brick paneling occurs in the cornice area. Originally the shopfront level was articulated by cast-iron pilasters, but has been altered to accomodate varying storefronts.

The mix of retail, office, and residential space in this building was typical of Barre commercial blocks during the building boom. Erected by G. N. Simpson of Lebanon, New Hampshire, the block was built for the Eastman Brothers Company which operated a groceries and provisions business.

33A. Storefront (186 North Main Street)

Very narrow enclosed alleyway; one-story. Non-contributing.

34. Commercial Block (186 1/2-190 North Main Street)

The low, horizontal profile of this two-story Neo-Classical style business building (dating between 1900 and 1905) introduced the new era of commercial construction in Barre when multi-story, multi-use blocks were supplanted by simple storefront-type structures. Faced with red brick laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers, the building has brickwork for its corner quoins and at the cornice area. Molded red terra cotta replaces the use of local granite for decorative detailing. It is used for the ornate window architraves, frieze band, and elaborate central cartouches over the three second-story window openings. The front elevation is divided into three distinct bays which are treated at the upper level with shallow bay windows angled out from large rectangular openings. Small triple attic windows are positioned above each bay, and a prominent denticular cornice completes the facade. The ground level has undergone several changes especially in the signboard area although some elements of the early twentieth-century storefront design remain.

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34A. Commercial Building (190 North Main Street)

Between 1916 and 1925; one-story; brick; small single store with new front; was originally bakery. Non-contributing.

35. Former Residence (200-202 North Main Street)

Pre-1873; wood frame; two-stories; gable across; central bay with steep gable roof added by 1894. Extensively remodeled; artificial siding with some clapboarding showing still. Quite probably the home of Leonard Frost Aldrich and his sister, Freelove, until he sold it in 1892 to move to his farm. By 1894 the building was apparently converted into shops. Non-contributing in present form.

36. Commercial Building (210 North Main Street)

Between 1889 and 1894; Italianate style; wood frame; two-stories; low roof; six-over-six sash; bracketed cornice at rear. Extensively remodeled. Originally had metal facing. Between 1900 and 1905 this building and #37 connected. Non-contributing.

37. Commercial Building (6 Depot Square)

Between 1889 and 1894; one-story; single store block. Stamped metal facing; central entrance; flat roof; plate-glass display windows with pressed glass transoms. Non-contributing.

38. Former Central Vermont Railroad Depot (Depot Square)

Located at the head of Depot Square, the former Central Vermont station (1908) is a well-proportioned derivative of the compact depot designs pioneered by Henry Hobson Richardson during the 1880s. The building's major architectural features include: a spreading hip roof extended at the eaves to form a continuous canopy; the separation in plane of the wide central pavilion and shallow wings; and the changing mass of the wing and pavilion roofs.

The building is of red brick, has granite lintels and sills, and two-over-two and one-over-one windows. Originally the roof was covered with red tiles, but these have been replaced with red asphalt shingles. Several original cross-paneled wooden doors remain. The main entrance door, now altered, is centrally located on the pavilion of the Depot Square facade. Once also on this elevation directly above the entry bay was a large peaked roof dormer with granite coping. The station's track-side elevation, however, is the more ornate with a bowed ticket office capped by a prominent conical roof. A small south wing, that accommodated the baggage room, increases the horizontal emphasis of the station and creates a slight asymmetry to the massing.

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The depot was built on the site of the original station which was constructed in 1875 when the Montpelier and White River branch line of the Central Vermont Railroad first came to Barre. The Central Vermont supervisor for the construction of the new building was J. E. Cole, and F. Maynard of Barre was the master carpenter. Since 1956 the building has been occupied by the Montpelier and Barre Railroad which uses it for its general offices.

39. Montpelier and Wells River Railroad Depot (9 Depot Square)

Unusual for its domestic-looking design and scale, this Queen Anne style, wood-frame building was erected (ca. 1890) to serve as the depot for the Montpelier and Wells River railroad line. It is situated on the north side of Depot Square with its gable front facing the square and coming at right angles to the horizontal line created by the former Central Vermont station.

A key feature of the two-and-one-half-story building is the central three-story tower and polygonal roof on the east elevation. The building retains its slate-covered roof and its fishscale shingles in the gable section; however, it is sheathed in varying materials including stamped metal and asbestos siding. The eaves line at the gable roof is trimmed with bracketing, a frieze board with vertical bands, and pent eaves in the gables. Originally a wide canopy surrounded the depot at the first story. Windows are one-over-one set into rectangular openings.

The building has undergone several alterations especially at the ground level which has been converted to a projecting shopfront; a series of low rear buildings are attached to the north side. In 1934 the depot became a dry cleaning facility which use it still retains today.

The Montpelier and Wells River Railroad built the crucial connecting link between the quarries and Barre center in 1888; this line is referred to as the Barre Railroad, the "quarry railroad," and the "sky route." Soon after, the railroad began constructing a line between Barre and Montpelier to avoid transferring business to its rival line, the Montpelier and White River Railroad. It was completed in 1889, and the depot was built somewhat later. During World War I (1917/18) regular passenger service between Barre and Montpelier was discontinued on this rail line.

40. Nichol's Block (199-205 North Main Street)

One of Barre's earlier large commercial blocks (before 1889), this three-story Panel Brick style building is notable for its granite and brick masonry trim. Brickwork appears in the corbeled cornice area, piers marking the central bay and corners, and in the hood molds over the segmental arch window openings. Granite was used for window lintels, also to mark the sill and lintel levels of the central bay, and, to provide contrasting decorative trim in the brick piers.

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The design is typical of Barre's late nineteenth-century commercial architecture--a prominent cornice serves as a visual terminus for the flat facade, and the narrow front is divided vertically by a shallow central bay. Its multiple use as retail stores, hall, and apartments is also very characteristic of its period. The shop-front level, which apparently retains the original wooden cornice, plateglass, transoms, door surrounds, and central entrance piers have remained comparatively unchanged. The building originally had a decorative central gable above the cornice.

41. Currier Block (185-191 North Main Street)

Horizontal in emphasis, the main facade of this two-story brick commercial building is organized into three recessed bays with groupings of three rectangular window openings in each end bay and four in the center. Windows are one-over-one and have granite lintels and bonded flat arches. Cast-iron piers and columns remain at the street level--a Corinthian capital appears on the south alley corner--although the storefronts, particularly in the signboard area, have undergone much alteration. A prominent cornice caps the building. Date: pre-1905.

42. Magnet Movie Theater (171-173 North Main Street)

Between 1905 and 1910; brick painted red; two stories; three-bay front with prominent shaped gable; rectangular openings in upper story--boarded; deep side elevation; marquee removed. Mixed use when built--i.e., also used for retail purposes and lodging. Shopfront altered.

43. Commercial Building (159 North Main Street)

Pre-1925; one-story; flat roof; plate glass front; deep side elevations. Was apparently originally storage garage for cars. Extensively remodeled, metal facade. Non-contributing.

44. Commercial Building (151 North Main Street)

Ca. 1930; one-story; flat roof; white-painted, cast-stone facing; brick side elevations; single shopfront with deeply recessed store area. Extensively remodeled. (Apparently built at same time as #45--close similarity in height and use of cast-stone facing material.) Non-contributing.

45. Commercial Building (145 North Main Street)

Ca. 1930, Commercial Moderne style store (Newberry's). Wide; one-story; polished granite veneer base extends partially up sides, cast-stone facing above; long, low parapet with shallow curves at ends; flat roof; original long fascia sign across

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facade--fluted frame, red-metal board, gold letters; green awning; original large display windows with angled corners at two end entrance bays. Well-preserved; good example of its type.

46. Wheelock Law Office (135 North Main Street)

Entered on the National Register of Historic Places June 18, 1975.

47. Worthen Block (123-133 North Main Street)

The decorative detailing of the Worthen Block (1890) reflects several stylistic trends of the post-Civil War era, including elements of the Panel Brick, Italianate, and Victorian Gothic periods. The three-story brick building with its basically planar front elevation has elaborate stages of patterned brickwork and corbel tables in the elongated cornice area. Patterned brick work appears over the round-arched third-story windows and the segmental openings of the second floor. Granite sill courses divide the facade on the upper floors. The narrow center bay is given special decorative treatment and features on the third-story level paired lancet arches recessed within dressed granite round-arch trim. Alteration of the original storefronts has been comparatively moderate--cast-iron posts remain; however, a very large continuous fascia signboard dominates the cornice level.

48. Commercial Block (105-119 North Main Street)

The last of Barre's large red brick and granite commercial structures, this 1909 Neo-Classical style block has a decidedly horizontal emphasis, floors of varying height, and a concentration of ornament at the second level. Local carved and dressed granite, rather than the terra-cotta ornament common to most commercial buildings of its stylistic era, is extensively used for its classical-inspired trim.

The three-story, flat-roofed building is faced in Flemish bond brick with glazed headers. The main elevation is divided into three main sections by monumental Doric pilasters of dressed granite. The third floor has two end bays of two openings each while the center section has five: openings are rectangular, have long one-over-one windows, and granite shouldered architraves with elaborate sills. The window treatment at the shorter second-story level is more ornate. It features a large Palladian window in each end bay with a rounded relief panel above the broad center window which is framed by short pilasters--all in granite. Also at this level the center section has a long granite rectangular panel with swag reliefs spanning three center windows. The building is capped by a broad cornice, a decorative brick parapet, and a small scrolled pediment of granite at the center.

This building has traditionally housed banks as well as retail stores. The original

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design is well-preserved except at the street level where the original storefront with granite pilasters has been totally remodeled with brick infill.

49. Commercial Building (81-85 North Main Street)

One story; five-bay brick building with very elongated side elevations due to additions. Recent Neo-Colonial clapboarded facade; narrow projecting shopfront bays. Apparently part of the original three-story, pre-1884, brick Jackman Block which was substantially destroyed by fire after 1925 has been subsumed in the present building. Non-contributing.

50. Former Barre Town Hall (71-77 North Main Street)

The earliest remaining building in Barre's commercial district is the former town hall. Presently it is a two-story, clapboarded, wood-frame building with a false front, cornice with paired brackets, and, on the second-story level, three pairs of large rectangular window openings. These have one large single pane with eight-light transoms above.

Apparently the building was a gable-roofed Greek Revival/Italianate style building in its original form but underwent at least a few remodelings, one in the late nineteenth-century when the false front was added and another in the twentieth century when the upper level windows were altered. A very early twentieth century view shows the fenestration of the building as consisting of simply two two-over-two windows on the second floor. Also a prominent gable is shown centered above the cornice line. On the side and rear Greek Revival detailing survives in peaked wooden lintels and in a three-part classical eaves treatment, cornice returns, and entablature blocks.

Around 1857 the town contracted with Stillman Wood and Nathan Morse to construct the first story of what was to be the town building up to the floor of the hall; the town was to erect the hall. When completed, the building was used for a combination of commercial and town purposes, and Stillman Wood had a drug store on the first floor. During the thirteen years he was postmaster beginning in 1864 and well into the term of the next postmaster, the town hall also housed the post office. In 1871 Wood started the first newspaper in Barre, The Barre Times, which was a monthly and which in its advertising columns focused on the merchandise available in Wood's drug store. A stagehouse was added to the rear of the building in 1879. Some years later the roof collapsed under the weight of heavy snows which provided the impetus for the building of a second town hall--this one built on the site of the present City Hall. The old town building after being vacated by the town was generally used for commercial purposes and in the early twentieth century the Salvation Army occupied the upper floor for its activities.

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51. Stillman Wood Block (59-61 North Main Street)

Built between 1884 and 1889 on the site of Wood's former residence, this two-story granite-veneered commercial block was originally a brick, free-standing, Italianate style building. The facade was originally divided into three sections--on the second-story level--with a four-window center section and three windows at each end bay. The elaborate bracketed cornice was surmounted at the center bay by a segmental hood pediment flanked by urns. Between 1905 and 1910 a two-bay brick addition of very similar design was constructed on the northwest side thus connecting the Wood block with the adjacent town hall. Main wall faces were not flush, the addition projecting slightly from that of the town hall. About 1960 the Wood block was heavily remodeled. It was faced in large blocks of granite veneer--polished up to the upper level window sills--and the second-story fenestration became almost a continuous band of horizontally attenuated rectangular openings with a rectilinear patterning of mullions and transoms. The storefront area has also been altered.

Although this building has undergone extensive change it has retained its original height. The new materials, fenestration, and horizontally emphasized mass are compatible with the district.

52. Aldrich Building (47 North Main Street)

Built in a trapezoidal shape that takes advantage of its corner site overlooking City Park, this 1910 block marks a sharp departure from the building format and materials of most of Barre's late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century commercial buildings. The walls are of yellow brick, and matt-glaze terra-cotta blocks are used for contrasting trim. Granite is used, however, as lintels over the second story windows.

A three-story, flat-iron type, the Aldrich Building has paired rectangular window openings between projecting piers. The piers terminate in terra-cotta caps rendered in flat, classical-derived designs. The cornice area is accentuated by corbeling that creates a kind of staggered-butt effect and by a parapet that becomes at the wedge end a peaked gable, and, on the sides, curvilinear, shaped gables. Other decorative features include spandrel panels marking the change in floor levels and the geometric patterning of the sash bars in the top sash of the third-floor windows.

The site of this building has been a key one in the history of Barre. This 1910 block was anteceded by another Aldrich Block; it housed, among other offices, the National Bank of Barre of which Leonard Frost Aldrich was president for fourteen years.

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Those buildings that are determined to be non-contributing to the character of the Barre Downtown Historic District (numbers are as appear on enclosed sketch map) are: #6A, #7A, #23, #24, #25, #26, #29, #31A, #33A, #34A, #36, #37, #43, #44, #49.

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| 2. Aldrich Public Library 6 Washington Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | 11. Church of the Good Shepherd, Episcopal 51 Washington Street Barre, Vermont 05641 |
| 3. Barre Housing Authority 14 Washington Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | 12. Church of the Good Shepherd, Episcopal 51 Washington Street Barre, Vermont 05641 |
| 4. First Baptist Church 135 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | 13. Barre Granite Association 51 Church Street Barre, Vermont 05641 |
| 5. Redevelopment Real Estate Corporation c/o Richard Davis Box 666 Barre, Vermont 05641 | 14. Barre Congregational Church 35 Church Street Barre, Vermont 05641 |
| 6. Hedding Methodist Church 40 Washington Street Barre, Vermont 05641 (Includes #6A) | 15. Universalist Church 19 Church Street Barre, Vermont 05641 |
| 7. Joseph C. and Sylvia G. Palmisano Box 552 Barre, Vermont 05641 (Includes #7A) | 16. Universalist Church 19 Church Street Barre, Vermont 05641 |
| 8. Masonic Building Association Inc. of Barre 2 Academy Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | 17. City of Barre 12 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 |
| 9. City of Barre 12 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 (Includes #9A) | 18. United States Post Office 3 South Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 |

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|--|---|---|------|---|
| 19. City of Barre 12 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | 28. Quincy Perry 107 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | | | |
| 20. Ralph B. Lash Family Trust c/o Richard E. Davis, Trustee Box 666 Barre, Vermont 05641 | 29. Richard J. and Joann Wobby 126 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | | | |
| 21. GRACO, Inc. 36 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | 30. M. H. Fishman Co., Inc. 300 Park Avenue South New York, New York 10010 | | | |
| 22. GRACO, Inc. 36 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | 31. Miles Block Co., Inc. c/o Quincy Perry 107 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 (Includes #31A) | | | |
| 23. Milne Real Estate Co., Inc. 99 Nelson Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | 32. Remo J. and Anita E. Berganti 172 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | | | |
| 24. Glenn W. Gold Corporation 99 Nelson Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | 33. AMBA Corporation Stowe, Vermont 05672 (Includes #33A) | | | |
| 25. GRACO, Inc. 36 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | 34. Howard and Mae Marr 186 1/2 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 (Includes #34A) | | | |
| 26. Richard E. Davis Trust c/o 1st Vermont Bank and Trust and Lee-Marg. Leasing Corporation Box 666 Barre, Vermont 05641 | 35. Howard and Mae Marr 186 1/2 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | | | |
| 27. Bigglestone Investment, Inc. 100 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | 36. Howard and Mae Marr 186 1/2 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | | | |

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|---|---|
| 37. Howard and Mae Marr 186 1/2 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | 45. Katherine F. Ladd c/o A.K. Wyzanski Dreyfus Properties 131 State Street Boston, Massachusetts 02109 |
| 38. Montpelier-Barre Railroad Co. Depot Square Barre, Vermont 05641 | 46. Barre Senior Citizens Club, Inc. 135 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 |
| 39. Howe Cleaners, Inc. 9 Depot Square Barre, Vermont 05641 | 47. Central Affiliates, Inc. 28 Pearl Street Barre, Vermont 05641 |
| 40. Nelson Bros., Inc. 201 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | 48. BATREAL c/o Merchants National Bank 105 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 |
| 41. D & L Corporation c/o John Lavin 12 Grandview Avenue Barre, Vermont 05641 | 49. Robert E. Berg and Gino A. Carmolli 81-85 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 |
| 42. Chistopher A. and Patricia L. Beltrami 25 Ayers Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | 50. Agnes W. Ormsby (1st floor) 61 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 Salvation Army, Inc. (2nd floor) 73 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 |
| 43. Homer Fitts Co., Inc. 159 North Main Street Barre, Vermont 05641 | 51. First Vermont Bank & Trust Co. Box 463 Barre, Vermont 05641 |
| 44. Katherine F. Ladd c/o A.K. Wyzanski Dreyfus Properties 131 State Street Boston, Massachusetts 02109 | 52. First Vermont Bank & Trust Co. Box 463 Barre, Vermont 05641 |

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Barre Downtown Historic District represents in a compact area the dramatic and rapid transformation of Barre center from a small agriculturally based community to an urban, industrialized environment beginning in the 1880s when the advent of rail service triggered off the full-fledged development of a local granite industry. Barre, which was not incorporated as a village until 1886 and as a city until 1895, was literally a community poised for the right moment in time when the availability of an efficient and economical means of access to potential outlying markets would permit the exploitation of a long-recognized local resource. The markets were there for granite for commemorative, building, or paving purposes; however, Barre's handicap in building a major inland stone industry was not partially removed until the Montpelier and White River branch of the Central Vermont opened a line to Barre center in 1875, and, not overcome until a quarry railroad was opened up by a rival line in 1888. Most of Barre's large commercial blocks and its architecture around City Park date after the building of the quarry railroad, but expansion began in the 1880s. The Barre Downtown Historic District thus reflects in both an architectural and historical sense the surging growth and urbanization of a small Vermont community directly resulting from a burgeoning industry that came to dominate every aspect of life and the environment. Further, the district reflects pride in granite as an important local resource in the varied ways it was applied to buildings during the boom years, even when other materials--e.g. terra cotta and cast iron--were more commonly used on a national basis. Barre, in north central Vermont, soon attracted with its promising granite industry a major influx of skilled stone workers from Scotland, Italy, and other countries; the craftsmanship and virtuosity with which both immigrating and local artisans handled granite are indicative of long traditions of stone working and are directly reflected in the quality and character of Barre's district.

Granite became a feasible material for building and commemorative purposes in the United States during the Greek Revival period through the pioneering work of Solomon Willard in his capacity as architect and superintendent of the Bunker Hill Monument. Willard, who supervised the project from 1825 on, developed basic mechanical devices for quarrying, working, and laying blocks of granite. Through his initiation the Bunker Hill Monument Association purchased a quarry in Quincy to furnish the material for the obelisk at the least expense, and Gridley Bryant designed a horse-drawn railway to transport the stone over three miles from quarry to tidewater. As was his intention, Willard succeeded through this project in stimulating the development of the granite industry. The Quincy quarries which were subsequently opened with their advantageous seaboard location supplied granite for use all over the eastern coast. Barre would have to wait through the next half

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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See Continuation Sheet #9-2.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \pm 25

QUADRANGLE NAME Barre, VT; E. Barre, VT
UTM REFERENCES

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

A 1,8 6,9,9 9,2,5 4,8 9,6 4,5,0

B 1,8 6,9,9 9,0,0 4,8 9,6 3,9,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,8 6,9,9 4,5,0 4,8 9,6 4,3,0

D 1,8 6,9,9 2,7,5 4,8 9,6 8,0,0

E 1,8 6,9,9 4,8,0 4,8 9,6 8,2,0

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet 10-1 - 10-3

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Miriam Tremontozzi, Preservation Consultant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

7 June 1979

STREET & NUMBER

97 Lakeview Terrace

TELEPHONE

(802) 862-5074

CITY OR TOWN

Burlington, Vermont 05401

STATE

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

William D. Timmer

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

6-25-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9-4-79

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/4/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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of the nineteenth century before full-scale quarrying and manufacturing of abundant stone resources could occur.

Settlers first came to what became the town of Barre in 1788, and by the early nineteenth century the granite from Cobble and Millstone hills was being used for building stones and millstones. The latter, according to Thompson's 1824 gazetteer of Vermont went to various parts of Vermont and to New York and Canada. In Thompson's 1842 history of Vermont the light-colored granite is considered a "source of profit to those who own it"¹ and "is eagerly sought by those who can afford the expense, as a most durable and ornamental article in building."² Montpelier, Burlington, and other areas apparently received large amounts.

Early quarrymen in the Barre area were reportedly Robert Parker, Thomas Courser, and Abijah Abbott. Parker and Courser were believed to have opened the first quarry in the area and to have been the first manufacturers of Barre granite. Parker's son, John, and John's son-in-law, Elipahlet Hewett, succeeded in the business and in an 1834 newspaper advertisement announced that they can quickly furnish hewn or rough stone of all descriptions, namely "underpinning(s); door steps; sills; caps; pillars and circles; window caps and sills; hearth and stone steps; mantletree pieces and tomb stones; posts, caps and balls; jet stone, grist and oil mill stones."³

A notable event in Barre's early granite history was the construction of the State Capital building in Montpelier from about 1832 to 1837. The foundation, underpinning, window caps, sills, cornice, and pillars were taken from a quarry on Cobble Hill owned and worked by Oren Wheaton and his father Pliny--labor was furnished by the state. Ashlar for the walls came from Millstone Hill. Transportation was slow and difficult: teams of horses and oxen made the laborious frequent trips from the quarries to Montpelier.

An important family which was early involved in the Barre granite industry was the Wheatons. Oren learned granite cutting from John Parker, and with his father, Pliny, owned and operated a quarry on Cobble Hill for many years. In 1840 Pliny completed for his family's use an all granite house--one of the few in the state. The cut

¹ Zadock Thompson, History of Vermont: Natural, Civil, and Statistical (Burlington, Vermont: Chauncey Goodrich, 1842), p. 11.

² Ibid.

³ Jackson, Historical Souvenir, p. 87.

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granite for the Greek Revival version of the Barre Congregational Church and that for the Courthouse in Montpelier was furnished by Pliny Wheaton in 1840 and 1844 respectively. After Oren died in 1861 the family tradition was carried on by Pliny Oren Wheaton who owned seventy acres of quarry land and manufactured building materials of many kinds. Some of the buildings for which he provided the dressed stone are: the Congregational Church (#14)--i.e., its remodeling; the Spaulding Graded School (#9); and, both the Bolster and Worthen blocks (#28 and #47).

In general, granite quarrying and manufacturing in the pre-boom days lumbered along slowly. Walling's 1858 map of Washington County showed Cobble Hill with two quarries and Millstone Hill with three, and in Hemenway's gazetteer of 1882 there were only eight reported. However, by 1894, just about four years after the laying of the quarry railway, there were seventy quarries in operation. Where there had been only a half dozen manufacturing firms in 1880, by 1894 there were 119 in Barre alone.⁴ As the boom period neared and broke farms were broken up or purchased in entirety for quarrying operations, and some firms assembled acreage from several farms. Barre center with its flat land in the valley along the Stevens Branch and its rail access burgeoned with granite manufacturing and dealers sheds in the Burnham's Meadow and Granite Street areas not far west of the expanding commercial axis along North Main Street.

What launched this sudden growth was rail service; but its arrival would be long in coming. In 1844 the Vermont Central--as it was then called--in planning its line from St. Albans to Boston via White River Junction followed the Winooski River Valley southward from St. Albans since it was the only point where the Green Mountain range was naturally penetrated. However, two routes became possible in the western part of Berlin: one by way of the Dog River and the other via the Winooski and the Stevens Branch, its tributary. The latter, the "Gulf Route" would have included Barre. A survey report of this route, presented to the Vermont Central Board of Directors, cited in its support the potential business of the Barre granite industry (more than 600 tons were going to Burlington a year). Despite this and other arguments, the Vermont Central main line took the Dog River route, and for almost twenty-five years Barre granite had to be transported by horse and ox teams ten miles to the nearest station.

When the Montpelier and White River Railroad was chartered in 1867, Barre began to plan for its future by obtaining an act the next year that would give it bonding capabilities to aid in the construction of the road. In 1871 a town meeting vote

⁴Jackson, Historical Souvenir, p. 91.

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was passed authorizing the town to bond itself, and a committee was appointed to negotiate with Governor Smith, then head of the Central Vermont Railroad. After lengthy negotiations and in consideration of a sum of \$55,000, Barre center received its first rail line in 1875.

The next major link, a railroad connecting the quarries to Barre center, was equally crucial. In 1888 fear that Barre granite would be channeled to Williamstown for cutting and subsequent shipping was precipitated by a rail extension to Williamstown about a mile below Barre village on the main line of the Montpelier and White River Railroad. Barre quickly worked out an agreement with the Montpelier and Wells River railroad whereby the town would take stock to the amount of \$40,000, and a quarry railroad to Barre village would be constructed. The survey was begun in the spring of 1888, and the trackage in July. The Granite Block (#22) built in 1888 to house the Granite Savings Bank and Trust Company is, in many respects, a confident statement of Barre's prosperous future as a granite industrial center.

Prior to the 1880s Barre center had ambled along in terms of growth, much as the granite business had; however, its potential as the population center for the town was early recognized, programming its later development when the granite industry finally took hold. What grew eventually into the city of Barre was in the early nineteenth century referred to as the "lower village," and further south along the Stevens Branch was the "upper village" (now South Barre). To the north along what became North Main Street was Thwingville where Joshua Twing, a mill builder, had his machine shop, foundry, and gristmill. (The latter was recently listed in the National Register.) To the northeast of the lower village was Gospel Village. By about the second quarter of the nineteenth century the lower village began to outstrip the upper which had been at first the most popular business area. Further, the common in the lower village, with its crossroads location, became a natural hub for town activities including church meetings. The Congregational Church decided when the time came for a new building to relocate from Gospel Village to the common believing that it would soon be closer to the population center. In 1848 the Universalist Church began a subscription for funds to build a new structure in the lower village; the new pastor believed it to be surpassing South Barre where the church was then located. The first religious society at the common was the Methodist Church which began to build a meeting house in 1801. The building was actually situated right on the common until it was moved in 1820 to front on Washington Street. From that time the Methodists have traditionally used that general site for location of their churches.

Thus the present nature of the common began to be defined before the building boom of the eighties. Town meetings, for example, were held in the Methodist meeting house on the common for over twenty years beginning in 1802. Though later they migrated to other locations including the frame commercial/hall type building (#50)

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on Main Street, when it came time in the 1880s to construct an urban-scale town hall the location chosen was on the City Park hub. Two prominent locations along the park became early reserved for specific functions. In 1802 the "checkered store"--at first a tavern and then later a commercial/office building--commanded the strategic corner site linking the park and Main Street where the present Aldrich Building (#52) now stands. The building, which was fitted up with a mansard roof in 1869, served as a prominent landmark all through the nineteenth century. It spurred commercial development along Main Street, and, later known as the Aldrich Building--it housed the National Bank of Barre of which Leonard Frost Aldrich was president for fourteen years--it set a tradition for the dedication of this site to Aldrich that has carried through the twentieth century. Another key site on the hub was that commanding the view of the park from atop the hill that climbs up Washington Street. This has traditionally served as a location for educational institutions: e.g., the 1852 Greek Revival style Barre Academy with its two-story pedimented portico and large cupola, and, later, the similarly sited Spaulding Graded School (#9).

As late as 1884 Barre was still very rural. A small spate of contiguous commercial development was strung northward along the west side of Main Street beginning approximately opposite the Aldrich Building. Important among these were four Italianate buildings ranging from two to four stories--the H.Z. Mills store, French's Block, and the Reynolds Building--that defined the bend of Main Street as it opens out toward the park. These buildings were part of Barre's pre-boom development and in their modest wood frame construction contrasted sharply with the more monumental brick and granite commercial blocks that were built beginning in the late eighties. They survived into the late twentieth century but due to condition have all been replaced.

The second half of the 1880s saw some important changes keynoting the accelerated urbanization that Barre center was to undergo in the 1890s as a result of the quarry railroad and burgeoning granite industry. This marked the beginning of the large brick or granite commercial blocks with Nichol's (#40), the Stillman Wood Block (#51), Averill's (#21), and the Granite Block (#22). Styles ranged from Panel Brick to late Italianate, to Panel Brick/late Italianate, to Neo-Grec with Gothicized detailing. The use of granite columns along the shop level of the Granite Block and that of cast iron along the adjacent Averill's points out the kind of design duality found among Barre commercial blocks, some, such as the former, translating conventional late nineteenth-century design details into masterfully used local materials. During this time the Congregational Church was expanded and remodeled under the stylistic influences of Richardsonian Romanesque sources and prefigures the spate of picturesque plan churches that would be built in the mid-nineties. The Richardsonian Romanesque style also served as the base for Barre's first substantial town hall. The large brick building, occupying the

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site of the present city hall, had multi-storied round-arched windows, a hipped roof, and projecting end pavilions with arcaded ground floor.

The population growth in Barre town was phenomenal during the decade of the eighties. Throughout the nineteenth century from about 1830 on it hovered around 2000. From 1880 to 1890 the count had swelled to about 6800. The influx of Scots from their homeland or via other granite centers in the United States began during this decade as well as that of the Italians. An 1897 publication, referring to the fact that many Scots came from Aberdeenshire in northern Scotland, called this region the "nursery of Barre granite cutters,"⁵ and Barre, the "Aberdeen of Vermont."⁶ The period of the entrepreneur had begun, and many quickly opened their own quarry, manufacturing shed, or granite tool company. Others began commercial enterprises to support the needs of the swelling population. By 1886 the Barre Branch of the Granite Cutters National Union had formed.

The 1890s was the period of real architectural development and commercial expansion. Essentially the stylistic pattern established in the late 1880s was followed: both the use of the late picturesque phase of the Victorian period and, for commercial buildings, an eclectic mix of Victorian-era sources. At the beginning of the decade is the Queen Anne style Montpelier and Wells River railroad station (#39), the Richardsonian Romanesque style Spaulding Graded School (#9), and the Worthen Block (#47) with its combination of Panel Brick, Italianate, and Victorian Gothic features. Gothic Revival and Gothic Revival mixed with Romanesque sources became the basis for two mid-nineties churches: the Episcopal (#12) and the First Baptist (#4) respectively; also from this time is the Queen Anne Methodist church (#6). The metal-sheathed Quinlen Block (#32) emerges mid-decade with a heavy reliance on classical motifs for embellishment. Granite is glorified in the extensive rock-faced surface of the Miles Block, and the present City Hall and Opera House ends the decade (built 1899 to replace the previous one which was destroyed by fire) drawing from both Neo-Classical and Romanesque Revival sources. In this decade granite was a very important material for building details, and in the case of the Miles Block its lavish use appears almost as an advertisement for Miles who was part owner of a quarry. With the Panel Brick Gordon Block (1891)--no longer extant--granite was a major feature of the shop level, being used for massive Corinthian columns and piers. John H. Gordon who had come to Barre in 1886 worked in the granite business for four years; he set up his law practice in the building and later went on to serve as Mayor of Barre. The end of the decade was marked by an important marriage of ethnic traditions with the Scots and Italians collaborating on the creation of the Robert Burns monument (#9A).

⁵J. H. Walbridge, "The Granite City," The Barre Enterprise (April 27, 1897) p. 3.

⁶Ibid.

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This was the period when the linear block-to-block nature of the west side of Main Street was really developed. The east side of the street was slower to fill in and remained more loosely developed and spaced well into the twentieth century. During this decade several public improvements occurred such as street lighting by electricity and an electric street car. Barre was incorporated as a city in 1895, and a daily newspaper was started two years after.

The 1900s brought two important Neo-Classical style buildings: the Aldrich Public Library (#2) and the large 1909 brick and granite commercial building on the east side of North Main Street (#48). Late Victorian stylistic sources still persisted with the Richardsonian Romanesque Central Vermont Depot of 1908 (#38), and eclecticism still lingered as with the design of the fire station (#17). This decade introduced the transition from large-scale commercial blocks with three-part horizontal design divisions to more modestly scaled (though still horizontally delineated) commercial buildings (#34). After this decade commercial buildings became increasingly abbreviated into mere storefronts. Blanchard's building (1904/5) (#20) designed by Lambert Packard, however, still followed the late nineteenth-century building format. Finally, paralleling the change in commercial building is the introduction of a new commercial structure--that of the movie theater (#42).

By 1910 the architectural character of Barre center had been formed, and the building boom in this area wound down almost as rapidly as it had begun. Only a few key buildings such as the post office (#18) and the Hotel Barre (#3)--both based on the Neo-Classical Revival style--post-date this period. In the 1920s, thirties, and forties the new commercial format of low, wide buildings with massive window display areas fully emerges as with Newberry's (#45) and Fishman's (#30). Even there granite detailing still survives although in the twentieth-century form of large rectangles of highly polished veneer.

Thus Barre's conversion from rural center to urban, industrialized city took place within about twenty-five years. It reflects the critical importance of rail transportation to the growth of industry in the nineteenth century, and it directly shows the close relationship between industry, commerce, and architecture. Further, it was built by ethnically diverse people who were attracted to a small Vermont village because it promised a prosperous future. These people used their skills in granite working with pride in shaping a very distinctive Vermont city.

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Barre Boundary Description

The boundary of the Barre Downtown Historic District begins at a Point A, located at the intersection of the eastern edge of the Montpelier and Barre Railroad right-of-way and the north curb line of the unnamed roadway that passes to the north of the north elevation of the former Central Vermont Railroad Depot (#38); thence the boundary continues in a northeasterly direction along said curb of said roadway to a Point B, at its intersection with a line ten feet from and parallel to the western elevation of the former Montpelier and Wells River Railroad Depot (#39); thence the boundary turns in a northwesterly direction and continues on said line to a Point C, at its intersection with the extension in a westerly direction of a line ten feet from and parallel to the rear (north) wall of the northernmost addition to the former Montpelier and Wells River Railroad Depot (#39); thence the boundary continues in a northeasterly direction along said line to a Point D, at its intersection with the western edge of the traveled way of an unnamed roadway that forms the northerly extension of Merchants Row; thence the boundary continues in a generally southeasterly direction along said edge to a Point E, at its intersection with the northern edge of the traveled way of Depot Square; thence the boundary turns northeasterly and continues along said edge of Depot Square and its northeasterly extension across North Main Street to a Point F, at its intersection with the eastern curb line of North Main Street; thence the boundary turns southeasterly and follows said curb of North Main Street to a Point G, at its intersection with the extension in a westerly direction of the northern property line of Nichol's Block (#40); thence the boundary turns northeasterly and continues along said extension and property line to a Point H, at its intersection with the rear (eastern) property line of said building; thence the boundary turns southeasterly and continues along the rear (eastern) property lines successively of Nichol's Block (#40), the Currier Block (#41), and the Magnet Movie Theater (#42) and the extension of the latter property line in a southerly direction, across Pearl Street, to Point I, at its intersection with the southern curb line of Pearl Street; thence the boundary turns in a northeasterly direction and continues along said curb line to a Point J, at its intersection with the extension in a northerly direction of the rear (eastern) property line of commercial building (#43); thence the boundary turns in a southeasterly direction and follows the rear (eastern) property lines successively of commercial building (#43), commercial building (#44), and commercial building (#45) to a Point K, at its intersection with the southern (right) property line of commercial building (#45); thence the boundary turns in a southwesterly direction and continues along said southern property line to a Point L, at its intersection with the rear (eastern) property line of the Wheelock Law Office (#46); thence the boundary turns in a southeasterly direction and continues along the rear property lines successively of the Wheelock Law Office (#46) and the Worthen Block (#47), and the extension of the latter in a southerly direction, across Keith Avenue; it then continues in a southeasterly direction along said extension, to the rear (east) of commercial building (#48), to a Point M, at its intersection with the northeast corner of commercial building (#49); thence the boundary turns southeasterly and continues

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along said rear wall to a Point N, at the southeast corner of said building; thence the boundary turns southwesterly and continues along the southern wall of said building to a Point O, at its intersection with the extension in a northerly direction of a line twenty feet from and parallel to the rear (east) facade of the former Barre Town Hall (#50); thence the boundary turns in a southeasterly direction and continues along said line and its extension in a southeasterly direction, successively behind the Stillman Wood Block (#51) and the Aldrich Building (#52), crossing Elm Street to a Point P, at its intersection with the southern curb of said street; thence the boundary turns northeasterly and continues along said curb to a Point Q at its intersection with the extension in a northwesterly direction of the rear (northeastern) property line of the Aldrich Public Library (#2); thence the boundary turns southeasterly and continues along the rear property lines successively of the Former Barre Hotel (#3); the First Baptist Church (#4), former house (#5); and the Hedding Methodist Church (#6); thence the boundary crosses Church Street and continues in a southeasterly direction to a Point R, at its intersection with the southern curb of said street; thence the boundary turns in a southerly direction and continues along said curb to a Point S, at its intersection with the extension in a northwesterly direction of the rear (northeastern) property line of the apartment building (#7); thence the boundary turns southeasterly and continues along said extension and rear property line to a Point T, at its intersection with the northern property line of the Masonic Temple (#8); thence the boundary turns northeasterly and continues along said northern property line to a Point U, at its intersection with the rear (eastern) property line of the Masonic Temple (#8); thence the boundary turns southeasterly and continues along said rear (eastern) property line to a Point V, at the southeastern corner of said lot; thence the boundary turns southerly and continues along the southern property line of said lot to a Point W, at the southern corner of said lot; thence the boundary turns southeasterly and continues along said property line and its extension in a southeasterly direction across Academy Street to a Point X, at its intersection with the southern curb of Academy Street; thence the boundary turns in a southwesterly direction and proceeds along said curb to a Point Y, at its intersection with the extension in a northwesterly direction of the northeastern (left) property line of the Spaulding Graded School (#9); thence the boundary turns easterly and continues along said extension and property line to a Point Z, at its intersection with the rear (southeastern) property line of said school; thence the boundary turns southerly and continues along said rear line and its extension in a southwesterly direction to a Point A₁, at its intersection with the eastern curb line of Washington Street; thence the boundary turns northwesterly and follows said curb to a Point B₁, at the intersection of said curb with the extension in a northeasterly direction of the southern property line of the Lake House (#10); thence the boundary turns southwesterly and continues along said extension and property line to a Point C₁, at its intersection with the western property line of said house; thence the boundary turns southwesterly and follows said line and the extension thereof in a westerly direction to a Point D₁, at its intersection with the southern curb of Spaulding Street; thence the boundary turns northerly and continues along said curb to a Point E₁, at its intersection with the extension in a southeasterly direction of the line of the rear (southwestern) wall of the former

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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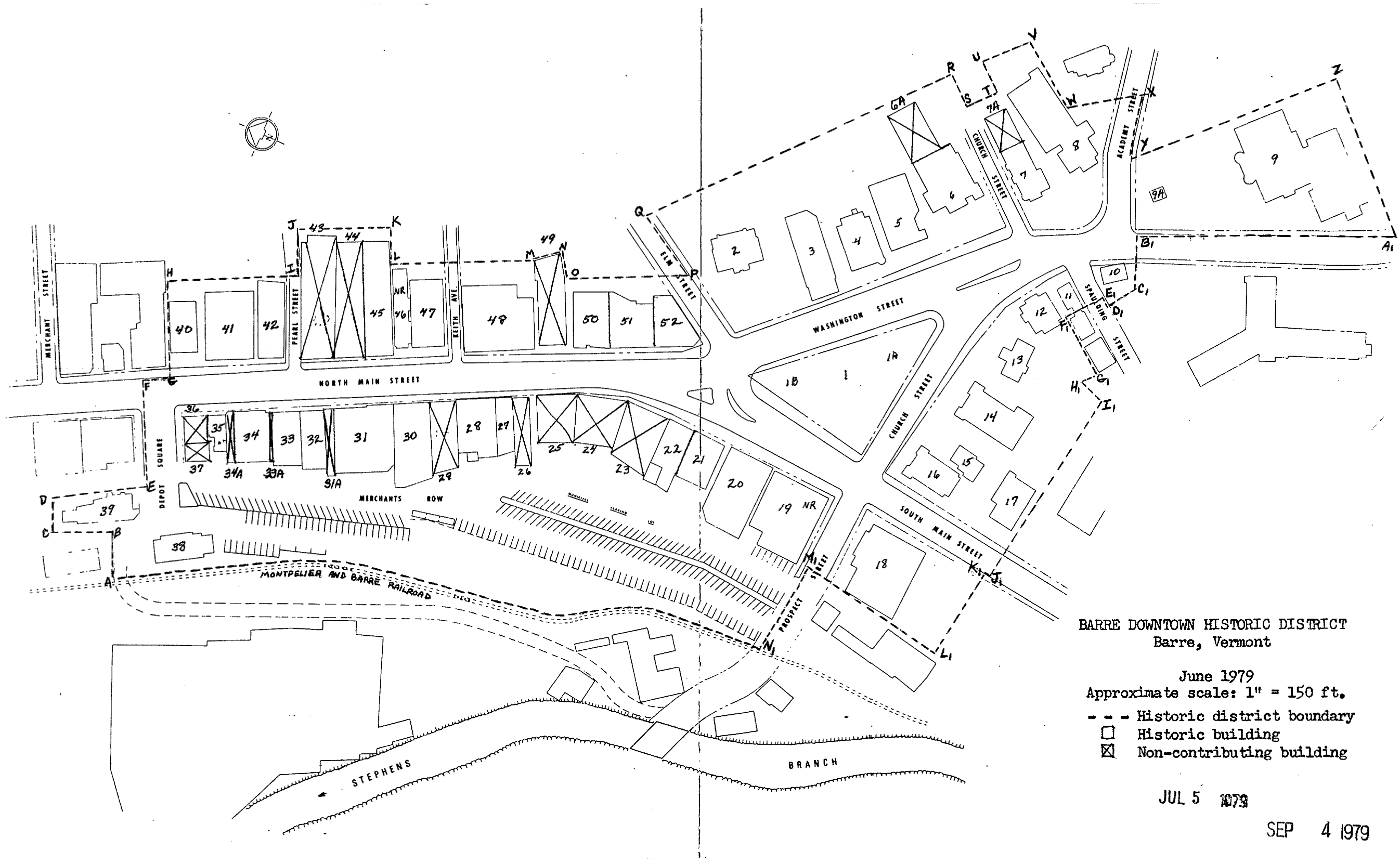
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house (#11); thence the boundary turns northwesterly and continues along said extension and wall and its extension in a northwesterly direction to a Point F₁, at its intersection with the southeastern property line of the Church of the Good Shepherd (#12); thence the boundary turns southerly and continues along said property line to a Point G₁, at its intersection with the rear (western) property line of said church; then the boundary turns westerly and continues along said rear property line to a Point H₁, at its intersection with eastern property line of the property of the City of Barre; thence the boundary turns southerly and follows said property line to a Point I₁, at its intersection with the southern property line of the property of the City of Barre; thence the boundary turns westerly and continues in a generally westerly direction along said property line, passing to the south of the southern side of the Barre Fire Station (#17); thence the boundary continues along the extension in a westerly direction of said property line across South Main Street to a Point J₁, at its intersection with the western curb of South Main Street; thence the boundary turns northward and continues shortly to a Point K₁ at its intersection with the extension in an easterly direction of the southern property line of the United States Post Office (#18); thence the boundary turns westerly and follows said extension and property line to a Point L₁ at its intersection with the western property line of said building; thence the boundary turns northerly and continues along said property line and its extension in a northerly direction, crossing Prospect Street, to a Point M₁ at its intersection with the northern curb of Prospect Street; thence the boundary turns in a westerly direction and follows said curb to a Point N₁ at its intersection with the eastern edge of the Montpelier and Barre Railroad right-of-way; thence the boundary turns north and continues first in a northerly then norhtwesterly direction along said edge of said railroad right-of-way to the point of beginning.

NOT VERIFIED
RE N.R.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 79000227

Date Listed: 09/04/79

Barre Downtown Historic District
Property Name

Washington
County

VT
State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for [Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

8/23/96
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

5. Classification
Description: Number of Resources within Property

The building at 190 North Main Street contributes to the historic district's architectural significance and is now classified as a contributing building. Investigation behind the building's noncontributing 1960s storefront has revealed an intact prism glass transom, a rare surviving but once common storefront design feature in the historic district. The c. 1925, one-story commercial building retains its historic location, setting, scale, setback, and storefront design features such as its tin cornice and rare prism glass transom.

This is in response to a request for certification of significance submitted by the Technical Preservation Services Branch, Heritage Preservation Services Division, and endorsed by the VTSHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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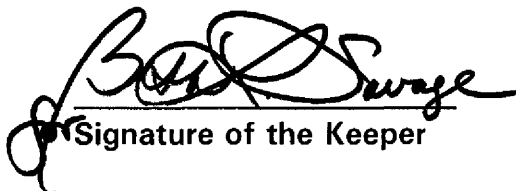
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 79000227 Date Listed: 09/04/1979

Barre Downtown Historic District Washington VT
Property Name County State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

6/12/02
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

The property known as the Quarry Grille and Tavern, located at 210 Main Street, was classified as noncontributing when the historic district was listed in National Register. Based on documentation submitted with the Historic Preservation Certification Application--Part I endorsed by the State Historic Preservation Office, this classification is hereby reversed and the building is considered contributing to the historic significance of the historic district.

The prominently located corner building retains its massing, scale, setback and fenestration pattern. In addition, evidence of extant historic stamped metal shingles beneath the non-historic siding has been presented as well as historic photographs that will enable the building's restoration as proposed.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without attachment)